Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes – 11/16/16 APPROVED 1/25/2017

Commissioners attending: Rev. Alex, Bruce Carter, Shiu-Kai Chin, Crystal Doody, Rabbi Fellman, Starr Guckert, Rev. Mackey, Suzette Melendez, Montanette Murphy, Francis Parks, David Pasinski, Gabe Ramos, Leo Sanchez, Mary Alice Smothers, Joyce Suslovic, Rosalie Young.

Commissioners Excused from Attendance None

1. Minutes from October meeting of the Commission were reviewed. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be adopted. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Report from Interim Chair (Shiu Kai Chin)

Shiu Kai sent letters to County Executive and chair of Legislature to remind them of the need to appoint remaining members of the Human Rights Commission. He also reached out to a contact in the Mayor’s office. The Mayor knows about the need for appointing members and would appreciate a letter from HRC and a List of potential candidates. A list of potential candidates was distributed and the HRC members were asked for feedback and suggestions for members and how to proceed. Discussion followed. Many Commissioners expressed a need to nominate younger members and those active in affected communities. A number of Commissioners volunteered to contact prospective nominees to the Commission.

Doug will reach out to John

Joyce will reach out to Khadija.

Bernard will reach Yolanda

Suzette will contact Romana

Dave will call Carole and Olive

Montanette – will contact Sarah

1. Barrie Gewanter presented her report of activities during the past month. The report was accepted by the Commission.
2. Bruce Carter led review of revisions to governance document. Discussion of possible changes and amendments to the document followed. Barrie stated she would check with the county attorney to be certain that the document did not conflict or raise county concerns. Bruce agreed to work on the suggested changes and to bring the revised document to the Commission for its consideration at the December meeting.
3. Future governance issues were discussed. Three commissioners were willing to serve as Vice Chair: Daniel Fellman, Bruce, and Leo.

 Vote in Dec.

1. The diversity training sessions were discussed. The Commissioners who had attended a training session in November were uniformly positive about the training and their experience.
2. Commissioners made a number of announcements of events that would occur in the next month or so.
3. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM